



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

APR 30 2013

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Dear Mr. (b) (6)

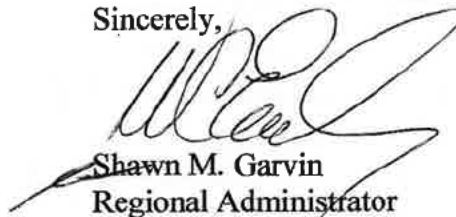
Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2013 to The Honorable Bill Shuster, which was forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), concerning the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) listing status for the Susquehanna River under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. EPA understands your concerns over the health of the smallmouth bass population and general water quality conditions in the Susquehanna River.

EPA is currently reviewing PADEP's 2012 Integrated Report (IR). The IR details water quality assessments that have been completed throughout the Commonwealth. PADEP has acknowledged that there are issues with the Susquehanna River smallmouth bass population and that changes to the Susquehanna River have occurred. PADEP recognized that there are questions remaining about the attainment status of the Susquehanna River and changed the assessment status from Category 2 (unimpaired) to Category 3 (unassessed) due to insufficient information in their final report submission to EPA.

EPA will review the listing determination made for the Susquehanna River by PADEP and we will consider all comments and communications received during our review period. We will conclude our review and issue a response to PADEP on their 2012 IR in the spring of 2013.

Thank you for your interest on the status of water quality conditions in the Susquehanna River. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. William Richardson in EPA Region III's Water Protection Division at 215-814-5675.

Sincerely,



Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator

cc: The Honorable Bill Shuster
Washington, DC Office